

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief John R. Batiste



Captain Jeff DeVere
Government and Media Relations
(360) 753-5299 – office
(360) 753-5469 – fax
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>

*****For Immediate Release*****

Date: January 17, 2006
Contact: Detective Sergeant Dan Sharp
Phone: 360-704-2393

Missing & Exploited Children Task Force Has Record Year

The Washington State Patrol's (WSP) multi-agency Missing and Exploited Children Task Force (MECTF) was established in 1999 to assist law enforcement, state agencies, and custodial parents(s) by conducting investigations on missing, abducted, and exploited children.

Since its inception, MECTF has assisted in the investigation of 311 cases involving missing, abducted, and exploited children. The task force continues to provide assistance to law enforcement agencies in the state of Washington as well as state and federal agencies throughout the nation.

In 2005, the task force conducted 49 investigations and recovered 10 missing children. These cases included 19 internet or computer crimes against children cases, 16 exploited children cases, six custodial interference cases, two traveler cases, four runaway cases, one abduction case, and one case involving the suspicious death of an infant.

The task force goals in 2006, include conducting more online proactive investigations and assisting other agencies and custodial parents with custodial interference cases involving children. For more information about the Task Force, please contact Detective Sergeant Dan L. Sharp at (360) 704-2390 or visit the task force's webpage at www.wsp.wa.gov/missing/ourkids.htm.

###